

Science Instruction

The Governing Board believes that all students should learn science in order to develop greater understanding of the natural world. As part of their science instruction, students should learn to apply scientific understanding to social issues and to make connections to real world applications through a balanced instructional program which includes life, earth, and physical science. Learning science should be an active process that makes connections to other content disciplines; such as mathematics, language arts, social studies, physical education, and the arts.

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

As a matter of principle, science teachers are professionally bound to limit their teaching to content that meets the criteria of scientific fact, hypothesis and theory as these terms are used in natural sciences. A scientific fact is an understanding based on confirmable observations and is subject to test and rejection. A scientific hypothesis is an attempt to frame a question as a testable proposition. A scientific theory organizes and explains a range of natural phenomena on the basis of facts and hypotheses. Scientific theories are constantly subject to testing, modification and refutation as new evidence and new ideas emerge.

Philosophical and religious theories are based, at least in part, on faith, and are not subject to scientific test and refutation. Such beliefs shall not be discussed in science classes, but may be addressed in the social science and language arts curricula.

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51210 Areas of study, grades 1 through 6

51220 Areas of study, grades 7 through 12

Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Science Framework for California Public Schools, 1990

SBE POLICIES

Policy Statement on the Teaching of Natural Sciences, January 13, 1989

Regulation FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

approved July 11, 1996 Fresno, California